

Minutes

Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies

February 20, 2008

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Graduate School, GLC, Conference Room

Present: Ms. Linsey Barker, Dr. François Elvinger, Dr. Joe Eska, Mr. James Freeman, Mr. Thomas Gorman, Mr. John Kane, Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Ms. Penny McCallum, Ms. Gail McMillan, Ms. Margaret Merrill, Dr. Patrick Miller, Dr. Suzanne Murrmann, Ms. Evelyn Richardson, Dr. Glenda Scales, Dr. Cliff Shaffer, Ms. Chris Thomas

Absent with Notification: Dr. Jim Collier, Dr. Ron Daniel, Dr. Paul Deck, Dr. Eileen Hitchingham, Dr. Gerhardt Schurig

Absent without Notification: Ms. Margo Eggeling

Conference call in: Dr. Karen DePauw

Videoconference: Dr. Rosary Lalik

Visitors and Invited Guests: Mr. Marvin Foushee, Ms. Ennis McCrery, Mr. Joe McFadden, Dr. Brian Mihalik, Ms. Jacqueline Nottingham.

Dr. Kumar Mallikarjunan, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the agenda: Approved

Approval of minutes from February 6, 2008: Approved

Committee Reports

Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC): The minutes from 2/12/08 were reviewed and approved. The new *Master of Information Security Assurance* degree proposal will be discussed under “New Business”.

Graduate Student Appeals: No report

Graduate Student Relations:

Ms. Gail McMillan reported that the committee has prepared two brief [six questions] online surveys to determine the level of awareness faculty and graduate students have about the Graduate Honor System. Dr. DePauw will be sending a notice to faculty about the survey and Ms. Linsey Barker will publicize through the Graduate Student Assembly.

Degree Requirement Standards Criteria and Academic Policy (DRSCAP)

4000 level courses

Dr. Patrick Miller reviewed the three part recommendation proposed by the committee:

1. Eliminate the “approved for graduate level” status on all 4000 courses.
2. Allow up to 6 credits of upper division (3000 or 4000) undergraduate credit to count toward meeting graduate program requirements (under the existing policy a maximum of 12 credits of “approved for graduate level” can be used) in order to maintain flexibility, particularly for students to taking courses outside their discipline.
3. Those 4000 level courses “approved for graduate credit” that are important in a department’s graduate and undergraduate offerings could be converted to 4000/5000 level conjoint courses.

The new 5000 level course would have additional identifiable graduate level learning outcomes different from its 4000 level conjoint course offering. The Graduate School would assist academic units in the expeditious processing of 4000/5000 level conjoint courses.

Mr. Marvin Foushee expressed concern that some departments would run out of numbers if #3 was implemented, and you cannot cross-list 4000 and 5000 level courses. Also, Mr. Foushee recommended giving the 4000 and 5000 level courses different titles in order to avoid a misrepresentation on the transcript, i.e., getting credit for both a 4000 and 5000 level course.

Following a lengthy discussion, Ms. Merrill offered to “re-work” item number 2. The edits will incorporate a variety of concerns raised by the commission.

Admissions Categories, draft # 4

Ms. Merrill presented a revised version of three types of admission:

- (1) Regular Admission
- (2) Provisional Admission (Master’s only)
- (3) Conditional Admission

The suggested revisions are an attempt by DRSCAP to simplify and clarify the language of the admissions categories.

During discussion, some suggestions were made which would further clarify the language. Ms. Merrill will incorporate the suggestions into a revised document.

When recommended changes are made to the two documents presented by the DRSCP committee, the revised documents will be circulated electronically to the commission for final approval.

Other Reports

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA):

- Mr. Joe McFadden will travel to the National Capital Region to begin the interview process for a chair and vice chair of the NCR GSA.
- On April 5, the NCR graduate students will work on a community project with students from George Mason University.
- At the last delegate committee meeting two committees were formed, (1) Fees Committee and (2) Events Committee.
- The GSA is hoping to include VCOM in the upcoming "Relay for Life" event.

Graduate Honor System (GHS): John Kane prepared a draft revision of the GHS Constitution. He requested that Dr. Karen DePauw establish a Constitution Review Committee.

University Library Committee (ULC): No report

University Council: No report

Old Business: None

New Business:

The *Master of Information Security Assurance* degree proposal was presented for a first reading. Dr. Rahman will be invited to the next commission meeting to address questions and concerns. Dr. Mallikarjunan will give Dr. Rahman the questions/concerns prior to the March 19th meeting so that he has an opportunity to prepare.

Announcements:

The Graduate School will make *Turnitin.com* software available free to our graduate students and faculty through May 2008. The intent is to allow graduate students to be proactive and to check their theses/dissertations (or papers) through access to the plagiarism prevention software. Faculty and GTAs are invited to utilize the software in their classes. Four different packages are available for use in classes.

Adjournment: 5:05 p.m.